

Message Text

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67

ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6586

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, HU (MIHALIK, ZOLTAN AND MIKLOS)

SUBJ: DIVIDED FAMILY IV CASE

REF: STATE 153192, BUDAPEST 1595, 75 STATE 298444

1. VISAS KANGAROO VIOLET STATE 298444 CONGRESSMAN FRANK THOMPSON DECEMBER 18, ZOLTAN AND MIKLOS MIHALIK, IV. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR STATUS REPORT, GRANDPARENTS ADVISED BY LETTER RECEIVED AUGUST 3 THAT CHILDREN'S APPEAL OF SECOND PASSPORT REFUSAL WAS ALSO REFUSED. GRANDPARENTS DID NOT SPECIFY APPEAL REFUSAL DATE, BUT IT WAS PROBABLY DURING JUNE.

2. THIS OUTCOME IS DISAPPOINTING IN LIGHT OF MILDLY OPTIMISTIC HOPES RAISED BY HUNGARIAN AMBASSADOR/REP. THOMPSON MEETING REPORTED BY STATE 153192.

3. THIS CASE HAS NOW BEEN SUBJECT OF, IN ADDITION TO CONGRESSMAN'S INTERVENTION, TWO SPECIFIC AND TWO INFORMAL REPRESENTATIONS BY CONSULAR SECTION CHIEF LONGO WITH MFA CONSULAR DEPARTMENT AS FOLLOWS: LONGO/EGYED AT MFA 3/3/76 SUPPORTING SECOND PASSPORT APPLICATION; LONGO/NEMETH (FORMER CONSULAR DEPARTMENT CHIEF) 5/14/76, INFORMALLY SUPPORTING SECOND APPEAL; LONGO/EGYED AT MFA 5/20/76 AGAIN SUPPORTING APPEAL; LONGO/EGYED INFORMALLY AT LUNCH 6/17/76 MENTIONING CONGRESSMAN'S INTERVENTION WITH AMBASSADOR.

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4. CONSUL HAS WRITTEN GRANDPARENTS (CHILDREN'S GUARDIANS) ADVISING THEM TO INITIATE ANOTHER PASSPORT APPLICATION IN CHILDREN'S BEHALF.

5. COMMENT: THIS EMBASSY CONSIDERS, AND HAS SO REMINDED GOH ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, THAT USG'S "QUIET APPROACH" SCENARIO IN DIVIDED FAMILY CASES, WHICH APPROACH HIGH GOH OFFICIALS THEMSELVES SUGGESTED FOR PROBLEM DIVIDED-FAMILY CASES ARISING AFTER THE MESTERHAZY ADVENTURE, ASSUMES TACIT GOH AGREEMENT THAT QUIET TACTICS WOULD YIELD POSITIVE RESULTS. THERE APPEARS LITTLE MORE WE CAN DO IN THE MIHALIK CASE THAN WHAT WE HAVE DONE ALREADY (INCLUDING A DIRECT CONGRESSIONAL INTERVENTION), WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF THE QUIET APPROACH. TRUE, THE GOH HAS GRANTED EMIGRATION PERMISSION IN SIX OF 15 CASES EMBASSY HAS HAD ON ITS DIVIDED FAMILY ACCOUNTING FROM SEPTEMBER 1975, AS REPORTED IN LETTERS FROM LONGO TO GERTH. WHILE NOT UNDERVALUING THIS MODEST PERFORMANCE, WE ARE ANNOYED BY GOH FOOT-DRAGGING IN MIHALIK CASE INVOLVING TWO INNOCENT-PARTY YOUNG CHILDREN. THE ITSELF CANTISH GOH ARGUMENT THAT (ADULT) PERSONS VOLUNTARILY DIVIDING THEMSELVES BY PARTIES REMAINING ABROAD ILLEGALLY HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME FOR SUBSEQUENT EMIGRATION DIFFICULTIES CANNOT APPLY TO THESE CHILDREN WHO COULD HAVE NO CONTROL OVER THEIR PARENTS' DECISION TO REMAIN OUT.

6. EMBASSY INTENDS TO RAISE THIS CASE AGAIN "QUIETLY" AT MFA CONSULAR LEVEL, BUT IN MORE POINTED TERMS THAN IN PAST WITH REFERENCE TO (A) HUNGARY'S HELSINKI COMMITMENTS, (B) SPECIFIC AND GROWING USG HIGH-LEVEL AND CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST, AND (C) USG ANNOYANCE AT GOH RELUCTANCE TO LOOK POSITIVELY UPON A CLEARLY HUMANITARIAN CASE. CONSUL'S PRESENTATION WILL CONVEY IDEA THAT USG IS COMING TO REGARD MIHALIK AS A TEST CASE OF GNF'S IMPLIED COMMITMENT TO GIVE US TANGIBLE RESULTS IN CASES IN WHICH WE EXPRESS SPECIFIC INTEREST. IMPLICIT, BUT NOT EXPLICIT, IN CONSUL'S PRESENTATION WILL BE IDEA THAT CONTINUED NON-PROGRESS ON MIHALIK WILL LEAD TO THE CASE'S ESCALATING INTO A POLITICAL ISSUE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

7. AT MEETING CONSUL WILL HAND OVER ANOTHER INFORMAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPRESENTATIONAL LIST WHICH WILL CONTAIN SIX CURRENTLY OUTSTANDING CASES (SZABO, SOMOGYI, FRATER, MIHALIK, FARO, AND BUCSANYI) UT REPORTED BY LETTER TO GERTH, EUR/EE. WHILE CONSUL WILL SPEAK TO PARTICULARS OF SOME OF THESE OTHER CASES, PLAIN EMPHASIS WILL BE ON KMIHALIK. EMBASSY WILL POUCH COPY OF NEW LIST TO GERTH AFTER PRESENTATION. MUDD

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